



3/7/14 Executive Committee Teleconference

Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists

Participants: Don Phillips (President), Anna Donahue (Vice-President), Gary Fullerton (Treasurer), Dave Turcotte (Secretary) George Bakajza (Director), Johanna Szillery (Past President), Tony Jenkins (NRCS Liaison), Dave Rocque (State of Maine Liaison)

The teleconference – hosted by Gary - opened at 8:00 A.M.

In his stead, Dave T. asked George to take the minutes at the upcoming annual's meeting's business, and George agreed to do this for him.

Chris Dorion expressed to Don that he'd like to see a panel discussion with the technical committee (that he chairs) following his presentation on the proposed Connotative Soil Survey standards at the upcoming annual meeting in Orono on March 18th. The technical committee consists of George Bakajza, Dave Marceau, Tony Jenkins, Greg Granger, Steve Howell, Dave Rocque and Rod Kelshaw. Chris spent a great deal of time working on these standards and consulted with Dave Marceau quite a bit about them (since Dave spent many years working in New Hampshire creating HISS maps). Dave Rocque and Tony Jenkins also provided some valuable input.

Much as what was discussed here today revolved around Albert Frick's request (in a Feb. 27 e-mail to Gary that was cc'd to Don) for a proxy vote at the annual meeting. In particular, Albert has concerns with the proposed High Intensity Soil Survey (HISS) standards with a Connotative-style legend.

After much discussion about whether MAPSS can allow proxy votes at this time, Anna did some quick research on the Robert's Rules of Order web site (<http://www.robertsrules.com/faq.html#10>) and discovered that proxy voting is only allowed when written into the organization's by-laws. That said, proxy voting (where a member gives written consent to a fellow member of an organization to vote in his or her absence) is not currently in the MAPSS by-laws as an alternative to being present at meetings to vote on issues. Al also had a question about whether only certified soil scientists that are present can vote at meetings or if any full member present can vote, and the answer is the latter (by a majority vote).

The executive committee here came up with a consensus that the proposal for this mapping style will be as an addition to and an option to the conventional mapping that Maine soil scientists have conducted up until now. The actual map and slope breaks would be the same in both cases. The connotative style would make it easier for some users (e.g. some planning boards, engineers and land owners) to understand and comprehend.

Once all of this was sorted out it was decided that we could not honor Albert's request, and that Don will respond to his e-mail accordingly, informing him that we can not allow him to cast a proxy vote. However Don, will also try and alleviate some of his concerns about the proposed (to be presented again by Chris Dorion) Connotative Soil Survey by informing him that the technical and executive committees' intent is for this new mapping style (used in New Hampshire for many years) to be optional and additional to our current mapping standard.

With regards to allowing proxy voting in the future, this topic will be discussed at an executive committee meeting later this year. If we are to allow proxy voting then a proposed amendment to our by laws would need to be made, inserted into next winter's "Lay of the Land", and then discussed and perhaps voted on at next year's annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Turcotte, Secretary

